



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - April 29, 2003

- ***In the West***, cool, showery weather is slowing crop growth and hampering fieldwork in ***northern California*** and the ***Northwest***. Meanwhile, mild, dry weather prevails in ***southern California*** and the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, cool weather and scattered showers and thunderstorms are maintaining generally favorable topsoil moisture reserves for winter wheat and spring-sown small grains across the ***northern half of the region***. However, lingering effects of multi-year precipitation deficits on the ***northern and central Plains*** include subsoil moisture shortages and drought-damaged ranges and pastures. Meanwhile on the ***southern Plains***, yesterday's scattered thunderstorms aided drought-stressed winter wheat and emerging summer crops, but caused localized wind and hail damage.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, recent soil moisture improvements continue to benefit winter wheat and emerging summer crops. Spring planting is proceeding with few delays, although locally heavy showers and thunderstorms are overspreading the ***western Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, warm, mostly dry weather favors winter wheat maturation and summer crop planting, emergence, and establishment. However, topsoil moisture shortages are becoming more widespread in areas primarily ***west of the Delta***.

Outlook: For the remainder of today, a cold front's passage will bring a chance of showers to the ***Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States***. Farther west, a frontal boundary will remain the focus for heavy rainfall from the ***central High Plains*** eastward across the ***western Corn Belt***. By mid-week, rain will gradually spread northward into the ***Great Lakes region***. Meanwhile, scattered thunderstorms will develop on the ***southern Plains***. Occasional showers and unseasonably low temperatures will persist for the remainder of the week across the ***Pacific Northwest, northern California, and northern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for May 4-8 calls for above-normal precipitation across much of the nation, although pockets of drier-than-normal weather are expected in the ***Southeast, Rio Grande Valley, and Pacific Northwest***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected in the ***West***.

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